

APPLICATION NO. 10/076,946
DOCKET NO. P2005-1/N8208

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were pending in the above-captioned application, with claim 8 amended herein and claims 1-7 and 15-20 canceled, in order to more clearly define and fully protect Applicants' invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims 8-14 and 21-27 is respectfully requested.

Although this application is under final rejection, entry of this response is believed appropriate. The Office Action indicates that claims 21-27 are allowed and that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since this response simply cancels the non-allowed claims and rewrites claim 15 in independent form (by incorporating the limitations of claim 15 into claim 8 from which it depends), the response should be entered.

As noted above, claims 1-7 and 16-20 have been canceled herein in order to permit the allowance of those claims acknowledged in the Office Action as allowed or allowable. It should be noted, however, that the cancellation of these claims in no way constitutes acquiescence in the rejections made but is merely in an effort to expedite prosecution.

APPLICATION NO. 10/076,946
DOCKET NO. P2005-1/N8208

In addition, the limitations of allowable claim 15 have been incorporated into claim 8 from which it depends (with claim 15 canceled as a result). Thus, claim 8 and claims 9-14 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The prior Office Action, mailed October 27, 2003, required the submission of formal drawings to avoid abandonment of the above-captioned application; the required drawings were submitted with the response filed March 26, 2004.

Acknowledgement and acceptance of these drawing figures is respectfully requested.

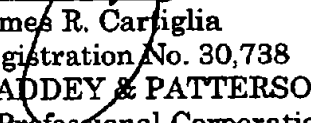
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims 8-14 and 21-27 are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If there remains any matter which prevents the allowance of any of these claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, collect, at 615-242-2400 to arrange for an interview which may further expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due attendant to the filing of this response to Deposit Account 21-0010.

APPLICATION NO. 10/076,946
DOCKET NO. P2005-1/N8208

Respectfully submitted,



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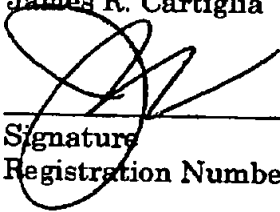
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action, including request for extension of time to respond (9 pages) and certificate of facsimile transmittal (1 page), are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306.

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Date